

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE LEHIGH 5-4120

APR 11 1958

VOL. XI, NO. 5

March 8, 1958

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FAVORABLE; STABILITY APPEARS ASSURED

Unemployment during the current winter has been lower than last year. There were 59,100 more persons employed during January 1958 than a year ago, with a total employment of 2,119,000. Industrial production, moreover, benefits from the power supply situation which is well in hand, and from a satisfactory flow of orders for the investment industries. Exports, despite some setbacks, are holding a remarkably high level. Foreign exchange resources have been brought almost up to par through foreign capital imports.

The christmas business has been comparatively slow on the retail level. December sales were 4% higher in terms of value (2% in amounts) than in 1956. But there has been a decline in the retail situation since last fall, as compared to the development of the popular income rate.

Foreign trade experienced a seasonal lift during December. Exports rose by 153 million schillings, to a total 2,251 million; imports to 2,631 million (an increase of 152 million schillings) — equivalent to the highest Austrian foreign trade level on record. (26 schillings to the dollar; Ed.).

The price picture has been somewhat uneven. While raw and basic materials continued to show declining price tendencies, there have been price increases in various finished-goods categories.

It remains doubtful whether it will be possible to meet all applications for government loans so far submitted for 1958. Projects already under consideration exceed the volume of loans granted during 1957 (totalling 1.2 billion schillings) by more than half.

COST OF LIVING ALMOST STATIONARY; INSUBSTANTIAL RISE IN 1957

(Index of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research:)

| Basis: | 1938 | 1945 |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| January 1952 | 708.2 | 833.5 |
| June 1952 | 711.0 | 836.8 |
| January 1953 | 692.0 | 814.5 |
| January 1954 | 693.4 | 816.1 |
| January 1955 | 697.2 | 820.7 |
| January 1956 | 706.6 | 831.7 |
| January 1957 | 743.4 | 875.0 |
| January 1958 | 751.3 | 884.3 |

KAMITZ: AUSTRIA NEEDS FOREIGN CAPITAL

In a recent Cabinet session, the Minister of Finance, Prof. Kamitz, underlined the importance of foreign currency loans for Austria. The law concerning such loans has become an important instrument of Austrian credit policy, the Minister said. Until 31 December 1957, it had become the basis of federal guaranties in the amount of 16,875,000 dollars for loans and 64,550,000 dollars for guaranteed securities and payments.

The Cabinet resolved to prolong the law until 1961, and at the same time raised the authorized limit from 200 million to 250 million dollars.

1957 NATIONAL PRODUCT: 4.6 BILLION

According to preliminary estimates the Austrian gross national product for 1957 amounts to 120.2 billion schillings, or 4.6 billion dollars.

AMERICAN SURPLUS GOODS A VALUABLE AID TO THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMY

Following the termination of ERP assistance, vitally needed agricultural products were made available under extremely favorable conditions by the American Surplus Goods Program. In 1955, '56 and '57, Austria contracted with the United States for the purchase of American agricultural surplus goods in the total amount of 67.4 million dollars. Corn makes up the largest portion of these deliveries (in the amount of 29.6 million). In addition, there have been imports of 10.6 million dollars worth of cotton; 7.6 million worth of wheat; plus lard, tobacco, fruit and coal — the latter in lesser amounts.

Surplus goods may be paid for in domestic currency — a considerable alleviation of Austria's foreign exchange situation in her dealings with the dollar area. The United States places the greater share of the schilling funds derived from the sale of surplus goods at the disposal of the Austrian economy. In some cases these revenues are used for the financing of additional exports to underdeveloped countries receiving economic aid from the United States.

So far, the United States has earned 1,773 million schillings from this source (26 schillings to the dollar; Ed.). Of this sum, 684 million (39%) are to be granted as long-term loans to Austrian businesses. Credits in the amount of 16 million dollars or (416 million schillings) have already

been granted. They constitute an additional contribution to the Austrian economy, over and beyond the released ERP funds totalling an approximate billion schillings per year as of now. Of this sum, however, 600 to 800 million schillings were used for installment payments, leaving only from 200 to 400 million schillings for additional funds released from the as yet unused resources of the counterpart account.

Surplus program credits are granted over a period of five to ten years at an interest of 5.5%. About one fourth of the credits granted has been earmarked for the development of the power supply. 56.5% of the industrial credits will go to government-owned industries. The remaining credits were mostly given to industrial enterprises in Eastern Austria, often to the former USIA (Russian-administered) plants.

Of the counter-part funds, 673 million schillings (38.5%) are used by the United States for the financing of Austrian exports. They are largely destined for countries with which Austria so far has had no (or very little) direct trade — such as Korea, Vietnam, Morocco, Cambodia and Pakistan.

The impact of American surplus goods on the structure of Austrian imports is evident. The United States share in Austrian imports of wheat, corn and tobacco rose sharply during the postwar years, as compared with the pre-war pattern, thanks to ERP aid and, since 1954, thanks to the surplus deliveries. Imports from Eastern Europe, on the other hand, have fallen considerably below the pre-war volume.

AUSTRIA'S POPULATION: SEVEN MILLIONS

According to preliminary statistical results, the Austrian population reached the seven million mark at the end of 1957.

The last census, taken in 1951, showed 6,934,000 inhabitants.

MORE REFUGEES FROM YUGOSLAVIA

In 1957, a total of 5,686 persons illegally crossed the Yugoslav border into Austria (there were only 1,910 in 1956).

The following motivations were given for seeking asylum in Austria: 4% of the cases gave reasons that were entirely or partly political; in 94.5% of the cases economic difficulties had prompted the desire to emigrate; 1% or 57 persons were military personnel or inductees; and 0.5% left for personal or other reasons.

4,527 of these refugees were directed to emigration camps; 286 persons, after proving their intention to emigrate overseas, were permitted to join relatives or were procured jobs in agriculture. 873 persons have voluntarily returned to their country of origin or have been refused refugee status.

The oldest refugee was seventy-five, the youngest eleven years old.

PRICE-INDEX DIPS IN JANUARY

In January, the price-index dropped both in the retail and in the wholesale trade.

The wholesale price-index fell from December (862) to January (860) by 0.25%; the retail price-index dropped from 751 in December to 750 in January, or by 0.13%.

Some foodstuffs, like rice and pork, fell while coal prices rose. Compared to a year ago, the price level in the wholesale trade has fallen by 2.2%, while that of the retail trade has risen by .66%.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

At the end of January 1958, the number of unemployed registered with the State Employment Offices was 209,233, 131,207 (62.7 percent) of which were male and 78,026 (37.3 percent) were female unemployed. The over-all number of unemployed had risen by 53,891 (34.7 per cent) since the end of December 1957. Men constituted 43,216 or 80.2 per cent of the over-all increase.

Almost three quarters of the increase hit the building trades with 25,119 (45.6 per cent of the over-all increase), wood industries and agriculture with 7,964, or 14.8 per cent. Compared to the number of unemployed registered at the end of January 1957, this over-all figure is 9,908 (4.5 per cent) below that of the previous period.

1.4 MILLION UNION MEMBERS

The secretariat of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions reports its membership at 1,538,755 by the end of last year — an increase of 11,454 members as compared to the end of 1956.

Both relatively and absolutely the largest increase was recorded by the union of private business employees, which expanded its membership by 7,158 (or 3.9%). Austria's strongest labor unions are the Metal-, Ore- and Coal Miners' Union, with a total of 261,605 members, the Private Business Employees' Union, with its 191,561 members, and the Construction- and Woodworkers' Union which has 188,608 members. Seven of Austria's unions have a membership of over 100,000.

DRAFT LAW FOR PROTECTION FROM NUCLEAR RADIATION

In view of the increasing use of radioactive materials in medicine, industry and agriculture, measures for the control of the importation and utilization of radioactive materials have been planned by the Austrian authorities, who also proceeded in the preparation of special legislative measures designed to insure protection from ionising radiations. Preparatory work, in collaboration with atomic physicists and radiation biologists, has now progressed so far that the draft law is ready to be submitted to the experts who will give an opinion on the technical aspects of such legislation.

In essence, the law contains provisions governing the emission and reception of radioactive materials, as well as protection measures for workers in the industries concerned. Particular attention is given in the draft law to the construction and operation of atomic reactors.

FOREIGN TRADE REACHES RECORD IN 1957

In the past year, imports in the amount of 29,337 million schillings (26 schillings equal one dollar; Ed.) were 15.9% above the 1956-level; exports, amounting to 25,442 million, rose 15.2%. In quantity, 11.7 million tons were imported against 10.6 million tons in 1956; 6.7 million tons were exported against 6.6 million in 1956. The balance of trade concluded with an import surplus of 3,895 million schillings which was approximately 20% higher than in 1956. Only in 1955 did the balance of trade conclude with an even higher deficit (4,898 million). Import and export values during the entire year surpassed those of the preceding year.

DELIVERIES TO THE USSR: QUOTAS FILLED TILL 1960

In compensation for the former USIA (Russian - administered) industries, Austria agreed under the State Treaty to ship commodities to the Soviet Union in the amount of 150 million dollars over a period of six years, at the rate of 25 million (or 650 million schillings) a year. While deliveries started officially on September 1, 1955, Austria by the end of 1957 had already met almost half of her commitments. It is estimated that the entire quota will have been delivered by the middle of 1960.

Also, in compensation for the oil processing industries handed over to the Austrian authorities by the USSR, Austria must ship one million tons of crude oil a year to Russia for another ten-year period. What is more, the agreement about the compensation deliveries, too, involves a certain quota of crude oil shipments to the Soviet Union; deliveries under both agreements during the past year amounted to 1,123,822 of crude oil (251,550 tons less than 1956).

However, this slight decrease in deliveries to the Soviet Union did little to alleviate the domestic supply situation, which is suffering from a production decline. In 1956, oil shipments to Russia amounted to 40% of Austria's total production; to 34% during the first half of 1957; and to 37% during the second part of the past year. Despite Russian consent to the proposed replacing of 100,000 tons of oil (earmarked for delivery during the first half of 1958) with 7500 tons of laminated tin, Austria will probably still be short of 8.4 percent for its domestic oil needs, as compared to the 1956 monthly average. Even with an intensified drilling program on the part of the Austrian Mineral Oil Administration, the domestic supply would not have improved for some years to come.

There has been quite an increase in finished-goods deliveries, which now represent 72% of the total quota, as against 60% in former years. (Only two thirds of all deliveries are represented by various types of vehicles and machinery.)

There are indications that the Soviet Union shares the Austrian interest for funnelling at least part of the current deliveries into normal trade channels following the expiration of the compensation agreement. Regular exports to the Soviet Union in 1957 have risen from 362 to 738 million schillings, representing 2.9% of the total export volume (26 schillings to the dollar; Ed.). The balancing of the trade pattern through a corresponding import volume, however, is problematical. By the end of January 1958, the Soviet Union had overdrawn its credit by 0.7 million dollars. Conceivably, the import gap might be filled largely through increased imports of coal from the USSR, in view of the remarkable results in coke-burning achieved by United Austrian Steel (VOeEST).

TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND VOeEST-LINZ

A three-year trade pact between Austria and the Soviet Union includes a special barter agreement concerning the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOeEST) in Linz, Upper Austria. Following a satisfactory trial period of VOeEST deliveries to the USSR, the barter quota has now been worked out in its details. The Soviet Union is to deliver between 250,000 and 300,000 tons of Russian coking

coal to VOeEST, plus 150,000 tons of hematite ore, and 35 50,000 tons of fuel oil. In return, the Linz plant will supply the Soviet Union with rolled products and machinery.

All ore and fuel oil shipments will be carried via the Danube and the Black Sea; most of the coal will also be shipped by river transport. The expansion of Austro-Soviet two-way trade will thus bring additional business to the Austrian Danube Steamship Company.

THE WORLD BANK AND AUSTRIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT*

Austria was recently host to two officials of the World Bank, Mr. Burke Knapp, Vice President, and Mr. Demuth, Director. The visit provided the opportunity for discussing questions related to the future of industrial financing in Austria, and specifically concerning the first Industrial Development Loan now being negotiated with the World Bank.

The first discussions on the subject took place during 1955 shortly after the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty, when a World Bank mission was in Austria studying the problem of the reincorporation of the former USIA (Russian - administered) enterprises into the Austrian economy.

These first contacts led to an increasingly thorough study of the question of private industrial financing, which prior to that time had been accomplished in Austria in one of two ways: either through the provision of ERP funds or through self-financing. The earlier general discussions were later intensively pursued in Washington by representatives of the Federal Ministry of Finance, with the result that at the end of 1956 it was agreed that the World Bank was prepared to participate in a general program of industrial financing.

After careful consideration, in conjunction with a team of jurists sent to Austria for this purpose by the World Bank, the idea increasingly took root that an Austrian development bank should be created. In July 1957 such an institution was founded under the name of *Oesterreichische Investitionskredit Aktiengesellschaft*. In the meantime preliminary work had been started on the technical and economic examination of the individual projects. The World Bank sent a second mission, composed of one economic and one technical expert, and undertook to study the loan applications together with the *Oesterreichische Investitionskredit Aktiengesellschaft*. This work was completed at the beginning of December 1957.

The negotiations now under way between the loan applicants and the *Oesterreichische Investitionskredit AG* represent the last phase of this work and it is to be hoped that a basic agreement will be achieved shortly.

The visit of the two high officials of the World Bank referred to above, which suggested the preparation of this short historical review, was primarily for the purpose of looking into the future problems of Austrian industrial financing. It is evident that also in the future the extremely high rate of technical and economic development will only be able to be maintained through the most intensive investment activity. The shortage of long-term capital for these purposes will become all the more evident as the integration of the European economy progresses, and as Austrian industries find themselves in direct competition with industries com-

* From the Jan. Bulletin of the Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Vienna.

manding far greater financial resources. It was in recognition of this situation that the World Bank has closely studied this problem and demonstrated its interest in a successful future development by sending its officials to Austria.

The exchange of views which has taken place, in which top representatives of Austrian business participated, brought out, among other things, the desirability of collaboration between the Austrian capital market and such a development bank, a proposal fully justifiable on economic grounds. It was emphasized by the Austrian side that, above all, medium-sized and small industries required the technical and financial assistance of a development bank. (Loan applications for the first Industrial Loan of the World Bank had a minimum limit of 10 million schillings. As each concern was required to participate to the extent of at least 50% with its own resources, this meant in each case of an investment of at least 20 million schillings. The number of concerns in private industry which have current investment projects of this size is necessarily limited.)

ALPINE-MONTAN CORPORATION GETS EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LOAN

Austrian Finance Minister Kamitz recently signed a guaranty pertaining to a loan for the Austrian Alpine-Montan Corp. from the Export-Import Bank in Washington; the loan, amounting to 28,150,000 dollars, or 730 million schillings, is slated to finance the construction of an intermediate and finishing rolling mill at the Judenburg plant as well as a new combined strip and bar iron rolling mill in Donawitz, Styria. The credit agreement between the Austrian Alpine Montan Corporation and the Export-Import Bank in Washington was concluded on January 6, 1958. This is the highest foreign loan an Austrian firm has received since the end of the war.

AUSTRO-AMERICAN MAGNESITE MAPPING EXPANSION

About 250 million schillings have been approved by the Austro-American Magnesite Company as a first appropriation for the construction of a new magnesite plant at Hochfilzen in the Tyrol. The new plant is expected to start operating in the summer of 1959, at an initial rate of 50 R R carloads per day. The greater part of the projected capacity has been earmarked for export.

WIENER-NEUSTADT AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY GETS BOOST THROUGH FOREIGN CAPITAL

The Austrian Aircraft Company, together with the U.S. Robin International, Inc. and the British Fairey Aviation Company are mapping an expansion of the Austrian company's plant at Wiener-Neustadt, the traditional seat of the Austrian aircraft industry.

The first step consists in rehabilitating the hangars and airfield, in order to reactivate the plant and create new job opportunities. This will be followed by the establishment of a number of workshops for the repair of planes, helicopters and aircraft engines. Negotiations are now under way for the third phase: assembly-line production of airplanes and engines. The final phase calls for the construction of private planes and demonstration craft for instruction purposes.

AUSTRIAN FEDERAL RAILROADS SHOW NEW DEFICIT

The 1957 budget of the Austrian Federal Railroads showed a deficit which was about 306 million schillings higher than in the preceding year. (One dollar equals 26 schillings; Ed.). The 1957 deficit is 1,600,800,000 schillings, while the income from operating the railroads has increased from 4,795,200,000 to 5,157,600,000 schillings—i.e., an increase of 7.6%; operating expenses during the same period increased by 11%, from 6,090,000,000 to 6,758,400,000 schillings. The Austrian railroads earned a total of 1,044,000,000 schillings from passenger and baggage fares (as compared with 1,010,000,000 in 1956.) Freight brought in 3,655,000,000 schillings, as against 3,367,000,000 earned in 1956.

A NEW FEDERAL LOAN

The first installment of the 1958 Federal Loan will appear on the market this month. The amount will be 600 million schillings (1 dollar equals 26 schillings), 150 millions of which will be taken over by the banks for their own use, and the remaining 450 million will be offered to the public. An interesting innovation is the introduction of a choice between 6% bonds, some of which will win a premium, and standard bonds at 7%.

In the opinion of experts, this additional incentive will increase the sale of bonds. A provision to guarantee the gold value of bonds issued was dropped due to the unquestioned stability of the Austrian currency.

A second installment, presumably amounting to 400 million schillings, will reach the market in autumn.

RISING ENERGY PRODUCTION

The over-all energy production of Austria amounted to approximately 12,455 million KWH in 1957, compared to 11,718 million KWH in 1956. Hydroelectric power accounts for 9,312 million KWH and thermoelectric power for 3,142 million KWH. Power exports rose from 1,713 million KWH in 1956 to 1,892 million KWH and the power imports from 499 KWH in 1956 to 644 million KWH in 1957.

In 1957, the entire domestic consumption was greater than that of 1956 by 11,206 million KWH, or 6.7%.

MORE OIL THROUGH FLOODING PROCESS

The Austrian Mineral Oil Administration is now introducing the American underground flooding process in the Matzenoil field. An increased yield of about 1,000,000 tons of crude oil is expected to be the result. The water supply plant necessary for carrying out this process is being constructed in March 1957.

In order to ensure the success of the flooding program and the expected increased yield, the gas pressure in the deposit layers has to be increased. For that purpose it is necessary temporarily to suspend the operation of some wells. As a result, 1958 will see a reduced yield of about 45,000 to 60,000 tons of crude oil and a reduction in the gas yield by about 100,000,000 cubic meters. But this reduction will be offset many times once the flooding process becomes operative.

AUSTRIA'S STEEL PRODUCTION SHOWS SHARPEST RISE IN COMPARISON WITH COAL- AND STEEL COMMUNITY

The High Authority of the European Coal- and Steel Union has just published the estimated 1957 production levels for raw steel in Austria and in the Community.

The following figures were given:

(In 1000 Metric Tons)

| | Change in Percentages: | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------|------|-------|
| | 1957 | 1956 | 1957 | 1957 |
| Germany | 24,507 | 23,189 | 5.7 | 55.0 |
| Saar | 3,459 | 3,375 | 2.5 | 22.5 |
| Belgium | 6,259 | 6,376 | -1.8 | 21.1 |
| France | 14,096 | 13,442 | 4.9 | 29.7 |
| Italy | 6,768 | 5,911 | 14.5 | 91.5 |
| Luxembourg | 3,493 | 3,456 | 1.1 | 16.4 |
| Netherlands | 1,182 | 1,051 | 12.5 | 70.6 |
| Above total | 59,2764 | 56,800 | 5.2 | 42.6 |
| Austria | 2,530 | 2,080 | 21.7 | 138.7 |

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

may be quoted freely

Source need not be given

THE 3000th LATHE OF UNITED AUSTRIAN IRON AND STEEL (VOEST)

The machine building department of VOEST recently turned out the 3000th lathe of its current series. From a machine that was originally intended for handicraft only it was possible, with technical improvements, to develop a universal machine, which now can be used in plant operations as well.

The lathe production increase can, to a large extent, be ascribed to the increase in exported lathes which constitute today almost 50% of the production. Among the markets are the German Federal Republic, the U.S. and almost all countries of the European continent. It was recently possible to find markets in India, the Middle East, and South America.

CONGRESS CITY SALZBURG

In the Spring, the Salzburg Kongresshaus will see, among others, the Congress of the German Industry Association, an East-West Seminar organized by UNESCO, the Road building - and Traffic conference on May 8 and, also in May, a meeting of the Austrian Society for Logopathy and Phoniatriy as well as a medical congress of Throat, Nose and Ear Specialists.

Also on the schedule: in the beginning of June: the meeting of the International Textile Association; in the middle of June, that of the International Textile Amelioration Industry; at the end of June, the championships of the Austrian Chess Club in August, among other Kongresshaus events, an Anglo-Austrian Seminar.

For September alone, ten meetings are booked for preparation, such as the Congress of Dental Surgeons, the International Transportation Insurance Congress, the Meeting of the International Music Libraries, and a Homeopathic Congress.

EUROPEAN FARMERS TO MEET IN VIENNA

The Confederation of European Farmers will hold its Jubilee Congress in Vienna from September 15 to 20. A number of agriculture problems which concern all European countries will be discussed. More than a thousand delegates are expected to arrive for this congress in the Austrian capital.

The congress is to establish six commissions which are to discuss important questions of agriculture and economic policy.

The Confederation of European Farmers (CEA for Confédération Européenne de l'Agriculture) was founded in 1948 and is thus now celebrating its ten-year jubilee. Members of the CEA are about 400 agriculture organizations, associations, co-ops, institutes etc. from Europe and several Mediterranean countries (Tunis, Morocco, Syria). The Confederation is the most representative body of its kind in Europe.

CARNIVAL IN VIENNA - THE STATISTICIAN'S VIEW

A total of 1155 dances and other forms of public entertainment have been registered at Vienna's city hall for the duration of the official carnival period, which ends on Shrove Tuesday. But before King Carnival abdicates, there will have been an additional 300-odd private parties, which the hosts are known to report to the authorities only a few days before throwing their doors open to the guests.

Entertainment tax statistics show that attendance at all these various amusements will equal last year's record, assuming that some 70 to 75% of the tickets offered for sale - in public places of entertainment - will actually be used. The total number of persons attending both private and public festivities should be around 600,000 - equalling, if not surpassing, the attendance at last year's festival season.

AUSTRIANS SAVE MORE

A study conducted by the Association of Austrian Savings banks explores the economic significance of current savings in Austria. In 1957, funds deposited at savings banks have increased by about 1.9 billion schillings, with the number of actual deposits made increasing from 2,518,000 schillings in 1956 to 3,008,000 schillings in 1957. The total number of withdrawals made during the same periods increased only slightly - i.e. from 1,272,000 to 1,392,000 schillings.

275,000 new savings accounts were opened at Austria's savings banks during the past year. This represents an increase of 14% as compared to 1956.

VIENNA SPRING FAIR

The Vienna Spring Fair (March 9-16) will be attended by over 2600 Austrian firms (2128 from Vienna alone). In addition to these, there are approximately 1050 participants from foreign countries representing roughly 2000 firms.

THREE MONTHS' DELIVERY FOR THE NEW AUSTRIAN MIDGET CAR

Demand for the Austrian small car, the Puch 500, has caused the manufacturers to expand production continuously since they first initiated serial production last October. (See "Austrian Information," October 28, 1957.) Having

started with a daily output of ten cars, the plant at Graz-Thorndorf is now turning out thirty *Puch 500* a day.

Although marketing conditions in general have shown the effects of a seasonal slump, *Puch 500* has met its sales quota, fixed for 15,000 cars per year, during the past four months. What is more, during the coming months the manufacturers count on a further increase in the rate of incoming orders. Delivery for new orders is now made within three months.

The Steyr-Daimler-Puch Company has meanwhile greatly expanded its sales and service organization, and created a system of workshops for the training of qualified personnel.

AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN TRADE: A BALANCE SHEET

As reported in greater detail elsewhere on these pages, Austria's foreign trade achieved new records in 1957.

A breakdown of import- and export values is given in the following table:

| International Trade 1957 According to Classification of the UN Code | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| UN Section and Division Code | Description | Import in million schillings*) | Export in million schillings*) | |
| 0 | Food | 4,288 | 982 | |
| 00 | Live animals | 139 | 449 | |
| 01 | Meat | 129 | 30 | |
| 02 | Dairy products, eggs, honey | 112 | 366 | |
| 03 | Fish | 152 | 7 | |
| 04 | Cereal and Cereal preparations | 1,331 | 30 | |
| 05 | Fruits and vegetables | 1,204 | 45 | |
| 06 | Sugar and sugar preparations | 205 | 21 | |
| 07 | Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices | 540 | 23 | |
| 08 | Feeding stuff for animals | 364 | 5 | |
| 09 | Miscellaneous food preparations | 107 | 1 | |
| 1 | Beverages and Tobacco | 465 | 58 | |
| 11 | Beverages | 148 | 29 | |
| 2 | Crude materials (except fuels) | 4,419 | 5,313 | |
| 21 | Hides, skins | 170 | 59 | |
| 22 | Oil seeds, oil nuts, oil kernels | 34 | 3 | |
| 23 | Crude rubber, incl. synthetic and reclaimed | 260 | 3,641 | |
| 24 | Wood, lumber and cork | 111 | — | |
| 25 | Pulp and waste paper | 94 | 693 | |
| 26 | Textile fibres | 1,649 | 418 | |
| 27 | Crude fertilizers | 350 | 364 | |
| 28 | Metalliferous ores and metal scrap | 1,456 | 86 | |
| 29 | Animal and vegetable crude materials | 291 | 43 | |
| 3 | Mineral fuels, lubricants | 4,239 | 649 | |
| 4 | Animal and vegetable oils and fats | 602 | 6 | |
| 5 | Chemicals | 1,991 | 1,073 | |
| 51 | Chemical elements | 479 | 64 | |
| 52 | Crude chemicals from coal, petroleum & natural gas | 24 | 21 | |
| 53 | Dyeing and tanning materials | 244 | 61 | |
| 54 | Medicinal and pharmaceutical products | 255 | 48 | |

| | | | |
|----------|--|---------------|----------------------|
| 55 | Essential oils and perfume materials, toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations | 70 | 24 |
| 56 | Fertilizers, manufactured | — | — |
| 59 | Miscellaneous chemical materials | 916 | 852 |
| 6 | Manufactured goods | 5,455 | 12,434 |
| 61 | Leather, dressed furs | 252 | 89 |
| 62 | Rubber manufactures | 91 | 164 |
| 63 | Wood and cork manufactures | 39 | 157 |
| 64 | Paper, paper board | 183 | 1,599 |
| 65 | Fabrics, made up, except clothing | 2,015 | 1,991 |
| 66 | Non-metallic mineral manufacturing | 395 | 1,367 |
| 67 | Silver, platinum, gems and jewelry | 198 | 101 |
| 68 | Base metals | 1,580 | 5,546 |
| 69 | Manufactures of metals | 697 | 1,415 |
| 7 | Machinery and transport equipment | 6,561 | 3,621 |
| 71 | Machinery | 3,341 | 1,890 |
| 72 | Electric machinery | 1,211 | 797 |
| 73 | Transport equipment | 2,009 | 933 |
| 8 | Miscellaneous manufactured articles | | |
| 81 | Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings | 41 | 44 |
| 82 | Furniture | 30 | 5 |
| 83 | Travel goods, handbags, etc. | — | 1 |
| 84 | Clothing | 61 | 410 |
| 85 | Footwear | 8 | 42 |
| 86 | Professional, scientific and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks | 603 | 367 |
| 89 | Miscellaneous manufactured articles | 574 | 398 |
| 9 | Miscellaneous transactions and commodities | 1 | 34 |
| | | Total: | 29,340 25,440 |

*) 26 schillings equal 1 dollar.

VOLUME OF HOME BUILDING LOANS DOUBLED

Applications for home building loans in Austria totalled 5,129 during the past year, involving contracts worth 490.5 million schillings. A comparison with the 2,552 applications approved in 1956, involving a total of 239.5 million schillings, shows that the volume of home building loans has more than doubled during the past year. (26 schillings to the dollar; Ed.)

A GARDEN FOR THE BLIND

The City of Vienna intends to set aside a special park for the blind. A park in suburban Doebling is to be landscaped to offer the blind special advantages:

The paths will not have any steps. All walking grounds are to be framed in with touch railing. But the blind will be able to touch the various flowers in their garden; tablets in Braille will tell them the name and the properties of the various plants.

AUSTRIA BUILDS 40,000 APARTMENTS A YEAR; 160,000 STILL NEEDED

A deficit of about 160,000 apartments still prevails in Austria at the present moment. About 40,000 apartments are

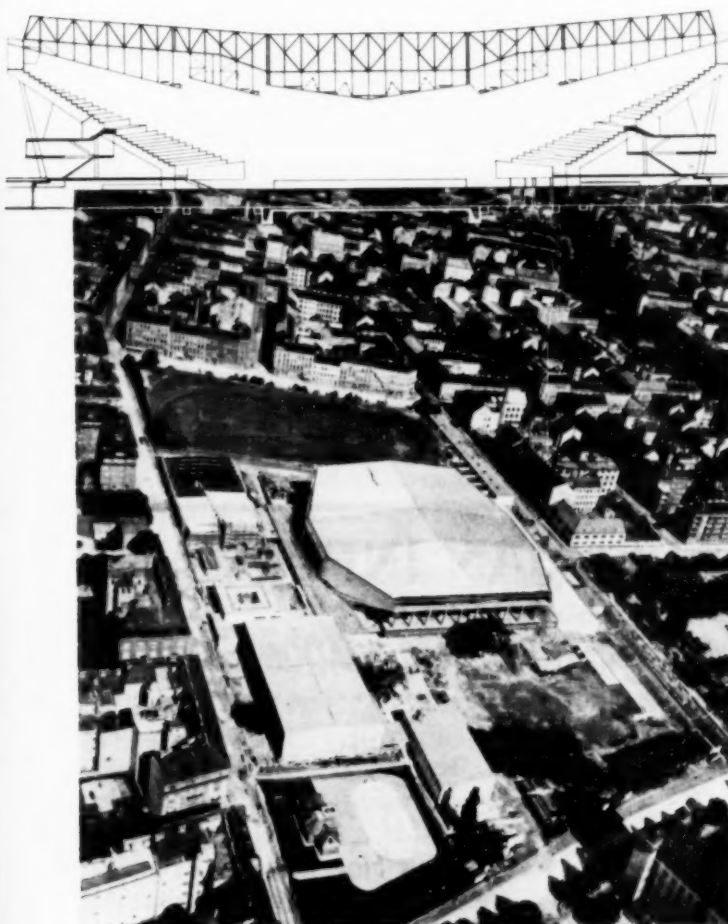


In the pictures: two post-war municipal projects; landscaping is an essential feature of recent planning in this field.

being built all over Austria every year. At the same time the demand for new apartments is increasing yearly at the rate of 12,000, namely through the founding of about 7000 new households and the demolition of about 5000 old dwellings. The net yearly increase in new apartments is, therefore, only 28,000 units.

VIENNA'S BUILDING PROGRAM: A STADIUM, A MUSEUM, A SPORTS CENTER AND A YOUTH GUEST HOUSE

Four big projects of the City of Vienna will be completed in 1958: The Vienna City Center (Stadthalle), the enlarged Stadium, the Historical Museum on the Karlsplatz and the new Youth Guest House in Hietzing, a Western suburb.



Aerial view of the Vienna City Center project; on top: structural design of the suspended roof spanning the main auditorium.

The City Center, already partly open to the public, will be the greatest sports center of its kind in Europe; the main hall and other facilities will be formally opened during the Vienna festival weeks.

The stadium, which now has a capacity for 60,000, will accommodate 95,000 persons after its enlargement and will be the most representative Austrian sports arena, equal to the largest European stadiums.

The Historical Museum of the city of Vienna on the Karlsplatz will exhibit valuable historical treasures now

housed under unsatisfactory conditions at the city hall. The new museum will also be a valuable educational aid to schools as well as to Vienna's extensive popular education system.

The city of Vienna has run a Youth Guest House for some years. The fact that it was decided to build a second guest house in Hietzing is proof of Vienna's increased attraction to youth.

THE AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE
*may be able to furnish more detailed information
on any item printed in AUSTRIAN INFORMATION*

AIR TRAFFIC RISES 24 PERCENT

As compared to 1956, the commercial passenger, freight and mail volume registered by Austrian airports has risen substantially in 1957.

The number of landings (6581) and take-offs (6580) increased by about 24%, while the number of arriving passengers increased by 107,077, or 20.2%; that of departing passengers by 36,931, or 65.2%, over that in the previous year.

Departing freight showed an increase of only 5.4% to a total of 865,435 kg; however, departing mail indicated a rise of 44.1%, to total 268,448 kg. In transit, while freight experienced an increase by 18.3% to 858,676 kg, mail rose by 173.5% to 182,495 kg.

Vienna accounted for 91% of all arriving, departing, and transit flights; for 95.2% of all freight and for over 98% of the mail volume.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE LEHIG 5-4120

HINDEMITH PREMIERE AT VIENNA OPERA

The Vienna premiere of Hindemith's "Mathis the Painter" has been set for April 30th.

The orchestra will be under the baton of Karl Boehm, the production is in the hands of Adolf Rott. The main parts are being sung by Lisa della Casa, Wilma Lipp, Karl Liebl, Paul Schoeffler, Otto Czerwenka. The third performance will be conducted by the composer, Paul Hindemith.

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH AT SALZBURG FESTIVAL

One of the highlights of the 1958 festival will be the performance of Archibald MacLeish's drama, "Play About Job". The American poet, who holds a professorship at Harvard University, will have the premiere of the German version of his drama performed at Salzburg. Called a "dramatic poem in ten scenes" and originally titled "H.B.," the play projects the Biblical theme of Job, the just man condemned to suffering, into a modern environment. The Salzburg production will be under the direction of O.F. Schuh, settings will be designed by Caspar Neher.

COMMENT ON FLORA - EXHIBIT

The work of the Austrian artist Paul Flora, whose drawings are now on exhibition at the New York Este Gallery (see picture in preceding issue), has already drawn favorable comment from American critics. After a brief preview, B.F. Dolbin of the New York "Aufbau" observed that "it seems odd that a graphic artist of such extraordinary caliber should only now have his first show in New York... This young Austrian," Mr. Dolbin wrote, "combines the inventiveness of a Paul Klee with the wit of a Saul Steinberg."

